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Letter dated 27 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the official statement issued by the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation concerning the position of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on weapons of mass destruction and the measures which it has adopted in that connection, in response to issues raised by one of the States Parties during the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, which was recently held in Geneva.

I should be grateful if you would have the statement annexed hereto circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abuzed Omar **Dorda**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 27 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya expresses its grave concern and extreme surprise at the content of the statement delivered by the United States Under-Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Affairs on 19 November 2001 at the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction in Geneva. In that statement, he accused Libya of having an offensive biological weapons programme in the research and development stage that may be capable of producing small quantities of agent. On this occasion, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would like to state that this unfair accusation, levelled at a time when sincere efforts are being made to wipe clean the slate of the past and to look forward to the prospect of normalizing relations between the two countries and promoting the interests of the Libyan and American peoples, has no basis in truth. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has never thought of doing such a thing and never will. Together with all peace-loving States, it is endeavouring to combat and eliminate all types of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, biological and chemical, as demonstrated in practice, both now and in the past, by its signature of and accession to all the relevant treaties and conventions, primarily the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. It has also recently affirmed its commitment to the prohibition of chemical weapons, which will take effect as soon as possible upon completion of the legal and legislative procedures relating to ratification through the Basic People's Congresses.

Asserting the firm position of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on weapons of mass destruction, especially biological weapons, on the basis of its cultural policy in particular, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi pointed out the grave dangers involved in the use and possession of this category of weapons in an interview given to the Jamahiriya News Agency immediately following the spread of the anthrax germ in the United States of America, in which he said that: "This is a cowardly, demonic and irresponsible act. It poses a danger to all humanity and represents the worst form of terrorism from both the physical and psychological points of view. Biological weapons are the worst and most repugnant form of weapons of mass destruction, as they are unlimited by time and place and many affect even those who use them".

On the basis of the above, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya reaffirms that it will proceed to discharge fully its international commitments and undertakings under the conventions and treaties which it has signed or ratified or to which it has acceded. It will demonstrate to everyone the truth of what it says and the falseness of the accusations and allegations made by others. We shall firmly continue to reject terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to combat weapons of mass destruction, particularly biological weapons, through the express convictions of the Leader of the Revolution, which leave no room for doubt and which the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has affirmed in numerous international and regional forums and conferences.

Tripoli, 25 November 2001